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British Museum (Natural History)



EXOTIC MOTHS

SERIES No. 4

5 Cards in Colour

Set E 25

One Shilling



a



b

EXOTIC MOTHS

(a) *Platytja rufiscripta*

(b) *Iontha umbrina*

Natural size

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

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EXOTIC MOTHS

(*Dysphania interrupta*)

Natural size

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

E 143

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EXOTIC MOTHS

(a) (*Tolyte manoba*) (b) (*Titya noctilux*)

(c) (*Hypotrabala neavei*)

Natural size

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

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a



b



c

EXOTIC MOTHS

- (a) Male (b) Female (*Taragama vesta*)
 (c) (*Odontogama nigricans*) Female
 Natural size

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

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EXOTIC MOTHS

- (a) Male (b) Female (*Chrysopsycha mirifica*)
 (c) (*Chrysopsycha luteolenta*)

Natural size

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

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EXOTIC MOTHS.

Series No. 4.

The first card in this series shows two moths of the family *Noctuidae*. In the one the male sex is only shown, in the other the female; it is possible that they may prove to be the two sexes of one species. Another card shows a moth of the family *Geometridae*. The better known species of the genus *Dysphania*, to which it belongs, are more brightly coloured, a brilliant yellow going with a deep purplish-blue to form a striking combination. The other three cards exhibit various forms of *Lasiocampidae*, the family which in our own country comprises such well-known moths as the Lappet, the Drinker, the Lackey and the Eggars, the colours of which are far less striking than those of the moths here shown.

E 141 (a). *Platyja rufiscripta*.

An interesting moth from Singapore, Borneo, Siam and Indo-China. The specimen shown is a female, and up to the present, although the species is known from the various above-mentioned localities, no male has been found. It is possible that the male is the moth known as *Iontha umbrina*.

E 141 (b). *Iontha umbrina*.

This curiously shaped moth is only known in the male sex, and comes from the same localities as *Platyja rufiscripta*. The small amount of pattern that it possesses on its forewings indicates that there is a possibility of these two insects being the same species.

E 142 (a). *Tolyte manoba*.

This pretty little moth belongs to the family *Lasiocampidae* and is known from Brazil, French Guiana, Venezuela and Peru. Its life history is not known. In view of the fact that only the male is known and that the sexes of these moths are often very different, it is possible that *Tolyte manoba* may prove to be the male of *Titya noctilux*, of which only the female has ever been taken.

E 142 (b). *Titya noctilux*.

At present known only from Brazil and French Guiana, this handsome moth, of which the male is unknown, is so closely related in structure to *Tolyte manoba*, shown above it, that it is possible that they may prove to be the sexes of one species.

E 142 (c). *Hypotrabala neavei*.

A very striking African member of the family *Lasiocampidae*. This species comes from Nyasaland. A curious feature of its pattern, which it shares in common with some other members of the genus *Hypotrabala*, is the silvery-white spot at the end of the cell. The early stages are not known.

E 143. *Dysphania interrupta*.

A Sumatran moth belonging to the family *Geometridae* (sub-family *Hemitheinae*). Some of the better known members of the genus *Dysphania* are more brightly coloured, the combination of bright yellow and deep purplish-blue making these day-flying moths very conspicuous in the sunlight. The early stages of the species here figured are unknown.

E 144 (a) and (b). *Taragama vesta*.

Figure (a) shows the male, figure (b) the female of a remarkable member of the family *Lasiocampidae*. The sexes differ to such an extent that it would be impossible to say that they belong to the same species had not the fact been satisfactorily proved by breeding. The life history has not yet been worked out. The moths have been taken in Nigeria and Uganda.

E 144 (c). *Odontogama nigricans*.

This is another West African moth of the family *Lasiocampidae*. The specimen figured is a female. The earlier stages are not yet known.

E 145 (a) and (b). *Chrysopsyche mirifica*.

Here is shown another striking example of sexual dimorphism, the male (a) differing so much from the female (b) that without proof by breeding, it would seem difficult to believe that they could be the same species.

The caterpillar has the whole dorsal surface chestnut-brown, bordered with a broad yellow, silken-haired longitudinal stripe on each side, extending from the first to the last segment. From the fourth segment onwards, each segment has a yellow transverse band, bordered behind with black; the band on the fourth segment extends forward into a strong point. The first third of the second segment is yellow. The first segment bears on each side a hair-pencil, directed forwards and obliquely outwards. The head is pea-yellow, and bears fine hairs. The lemon-yellow silken cocoon is thin and soft, the hind part being semi-transparent and wholly without intermingled hairs.

This insect comes from West Africa.

E 145 (c). *Chrysopsyche lutulenta*.

This is an East African representative of the genus *Chrysopsyche* (family *Lasiocampidae*). The specimen shown is a female, the other sex being at present unknown.

Set E 25.

July, 1924.

